



BETATAKIN TOUR INFORMATION - 2009

The Route: Betatakin is five miles (8 km.) round trip from the trailhead, which is located $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the visitor center. This free hike is strenuous and is guided by a ranger. The trail follows an old road out to Tsegi Point, and then drops steeply on rock switchbacks 700 feet (218 M) down into the canyon. Once in the canyon, the route then follows the Kayenta Formation, backtracking into the canyon to Betatakin.

Tour Schedule: Betatakin tours are available year-round but during severe weather conditions they are automatically cancelled and it also depends on the availability of staff. Please call **928-672-2700** to be certain. If you represent a group, please call to let us know and we will accommodate you if we can.

The summer season will begin on May 23, 2009 and will end September 12, 2009. The summer schedule is as follows:

1. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, one tour per day and 25 people per tour, tour leaves from the Visitors Center at 8:15 AM
2. On Thursdays thru Monday, two tours per day and 25 people per tour, tour leaves from the Visitors Center at 8:15 AM and 10:00 AM.

For the rest of the year the tour leaves from the Visitors Center at 10:00 AM

The Time: Please remember that during the summer the Navajo Nation, as well as Navajo National Monument, is on Mountain Daylight Savings Time, one hour ahead of other Arizona locations such as the Grand Canyon, Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Hope Nation. The Monument is on the same time as Utah, Colorado and New Mexico.

The Tour: The tour begins with a trail briefing in front of the visitor center. Visitors then drive in their vehicles, following the ranger to the Betatakin parking area and trailhead. The ranger leads the visitors down the 2.5 mile trail to the Betatakin site. After the tour is finished at the cliff pueblo, visitors walk back to their vehicles at their own pace. Please stay on designated trail at all times. The ranger is the last person out of the canyon, ensuring that visitors have safely returned. The tour takes three to five hours, round trip. Composting toilets are available at the Betatakin Parking area and at the bottom of the canyon.

The Betatakin hike is moderately difficult, and hikers should be in fair physical condition. People with cardiovascular or joint problems should not take part in the tour. The high altitude of the monument at 7300 feet (2220 M) can make it difficult for those living near sea level. Visitors should wear sturdy hiking boots or shoes and bring two liters of water. Trail snacks and a hiking pole are optional. Temperatures can be very warm (90 degrees F.), with canyon temperatures ten degrees warmer than the mesa top. Summer weather can be quite variable with afternoon thunderstorms, wind, or heat. Please do not underestimate the effects of heat and the need for water. Fall or winter weather can vary from mild conditions to freezing temperatures, with gusty winds or deep snow.

Sandstone rock fall hazards exist in the canyons here; rocks can fall within the alcove unpredictably. Visitors enter the alcove at their own risk.